DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 227 844 IR 050 135

TITLE	Library Service to the People of New York State. A Long-Range Program October 1, 1982-September 30, 1987, for the Improvement of Library Services Utilizing Local, State, and Federal Resources.
INSTITUTION	New York State Library, Albany.
PUB DATE	Sep 82
NOTE	24p.; For related document, see ED 183 175.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Improvement; Library Networks; *Library Planning; *Library Services; Program Descriptions; Public Libraries; *Regional Libraries; *Regional Planning; State Departments of Education; State Libraries; *State Programs
IDENTIFIERS	Library Statistics; *New York

ABSTRACT

The comprehensive 5-year program for the enhancement of library services in New York State which is described (1) provides a benchmark for the continuing planning, development, and evaluation of state library services; (2) summarizes the objectives, policies, and programs undertaken for the improvement of those services; (3) serves as a guide to library networks, regional planning groups, and other agencies that wish to participate; and (4) meets the requirements of the Federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA). An overview of the state library environment is offered, constraints on services are outlined, and the program's goals and objectives are explained. Tables provide summary statistics on public, academic, school, institution, and medical libraries, on the New York State Library, on public library systems, and on reference and research library resources systems within the state. A bibliography of major documents for New York State library service programs and lists of New York members of the LSCA Advisory Council and the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries conclude the report. (ESR)

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LIBRARY SERVICE
to the
PEOPLE OF NEW YORK STATE

A Long-Range Program
October 1, 1982–September 30, 1987
for the
Improvement of Library Services Utilizing
Local, State, and Federal Resources

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September 1982

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The Long-Range Program: Ideas From Many, Uses by Many

This comprehensive five-year program for the improvement of library services in New York State, which is revised each year, has several uses:

- It provides a benchmark for the continuing planning, development, and evaluation of library services in New York State.
- It summarizes for the Board of Regents, the State Education Department, New York State libraries, agencies and organizations with an interest in library services, and interested citizens of the State, the objectives, policies, and programs undertaken for the improvement of library services, particularly those that the Federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) program helps finance.
- It serves as a guide to library systems, regional planning groups, and other agencies that wish to participate in some way in the LSCA program.
- It meets the requirements of the Federal Library Services and Construction Act and the regulations of the U.S. Commissioner of Education under that act.

Staff of the New York State Library and members of the LSCA Advisory Council prepared this document (and its earlier versions) during the last several years. Others who review and contribute to this *Long-Range Program* are the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries, and within the State Education Department, the Commissioner of Education, the Executive Deputy Commissioner of Education, and the Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education. The *Long-Range Program* is approved by the Board of Regents of The University of the State of New York.

The State Education Department and all associated with the library development program recognize the need for continuous evaluation and planning. This principle is observed in publications and action. Five basic policy documents for today's library service program in New York State are: *Meeting Information Needs of the 80's* (the Report of the Commissioner's Committee on Statewide Library Development); the *Long-Range Program*; the *LSCA Annual Program Statements*; *Major Recommendations of the Regents for Legislative Action*; *and Federal Legislation and Education in New York State*.

The Commissioner's Committee was appointed by Commissioner Ambach in 1980 to examine the structure and the capacity of libraries and library systems in New York State in the light of anticipated need and projected technological developments over the next two decades. The recommendations of the Committee form the basis for Regents legislative proposals for 1982 and 1983.

The Libraries of New York State and Their Environment

Libraries—An Overview

Libraries have played a major role in the history of New York State. Most New York State communities support a public library. Many date back to the middle and early 1800's. Among the State's libraries are public and private institutions which were founded and developed through gifts, bequests and endowments. Some are of national and international repute and help establish library and information services as a major resource of the State.

In addition to these public libraries, the State has educational and academic institutions with library collections of great size and excellence. The State itself has supported a State Library since 1818. This vast research library is today the country's leading state library, with a collection of 4.5 million items. State-level library extension and development programs antedate this century and, under the leadership of the Regents and the Education Department, have become exemplary for the nation.

During the last 30 years, the development of communication technology and the information explosion have multiplied the demands of users on public libraries. These libraries, and libraries of all types, have been changing in response to increasing demands by a better educated citizenry.

New York State's libraries draw researchers from throughout the nation and the world. They are leaders in the development of innovative services and the State's library systems were among the first in the nation. Much of the new technology for storage, retrieval, and communication of information was conceived in New York.

The Commissioner's Committee report gives a current overview of libraries and library systems in New York State. The following facts are notable:

— New York State has more than 7,700 libraries—public, academic, school, special and institution—with 158 million books, pictures and manuscripts, almost 10,000 professional librarians, 12,400 other employees, and annual operating expenditures of $526 million.

— Responsibility for library services rests with the Board of Regents of The University of the State of New York, empowered by the State Constitu-

tion to direct educational activities.

- An outstanding regional public library program is composed of 22 systems demonstrating that coordination of services and functions through cooperation can result in better service for users.
- Nine regional reference and research library resources systems share resources to meet the reference and information needs of college and university undergraduate and graduate students and faculty, members of the professions, and other special library users.
- NYSILL—the State's first major service linking libraries of all types — is the most fully developed statewide interlibrary loan network in the nation.
- There are school libraries in 95 percent of the public elementary and secondary schools and 75 percent of the nonpublic schools.
- Academic library resources of 243 colleges, universities, other postsecondary schools in the State and those of the New York Public Library Research Libraries are a major part of the State's total library resources.
- Pilot school library systems established in 1979 test methods for resource sharing.
- Two regional networks (each including one reference and research system, one or more public library systems and three or more school library system pilot projects) test the multi-type library network concept.
- The State provides substantial aid to cooperative and federated public library systems and to regional organizations for resource sharing. Public library system aid is allocated to support system headquarters operation and services to member libraries, passed through the system to the central library, and given as local sponsor incentive aid to encourage the system and its member libraries to maintain and increase the level of local support.
- The New York State Library is both a great research library and the library development agency of the State. It is the country's only state library that qualifies for membership in the prestigious Association of Research Libraries.

To provide access and increased services and to meet the informational, cultural, and recreational needs of all the people of the State, a comprehensive program involving all types of libraries is required. Parts of this program are already in place. Others are being developed as library planners work with legislation, rapidly developing technologies, and a changing environment of information services.

The trend toward lifelong learning, the increase in leisure time, and the expanded role that information plays in the post-industrial society are altering the role of libraries. Today libraries supply materials in a wide range of formats including printed materials, microforms, recordings, films, discs, and videotapes. Increasingly diverse clienteles come to libraries in search of new learning experiences, new ways to use leisure time more profitably, and to find their roots. Demand has also increased for research-level materials from postsecondary education, high technology industry, Federal, state and local governments, business, and industry. As the ways to identify resources have multiplied, the demand for access to these resources has accelerated.

State Government

Education in New York State is under the direction of the Board of Regents whose powers are provided for in the State Constitution. The Legislature elects the members of the Board of Regents, formulates State Education Law, and appropriates funds for the State Education Department and library programs. Library legislation is considered by the Assembly Subcommittee on Libraries (reporting to the Assembly Higher Education Committee) and the Senate Subcommittee on Libraries (reporting to the Senate Education Committee).

The Board of Regents consists of 15 members, each elected for a term of seven years. The Commissioner of Education, appointed by the Board of Regents, is the chief educational administrator and President of The University of the State of New York, the corporate entity which encompasses all of the educational activities of the State. The Board of Regents and the Commissioner determine broad policy and standards for all education in New York State.

Under the Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education, the Assistant Commissioner for Libraries and State Librarian administers the State Library and is the chief library officer for the State. The New York State Library includes three major units: the Library, the Bureau of Regional Library Services, and the Bureau of Specialist Library Services.

The Bureau of School Libraries is within the Division of Humanities and Arts Education, under the Deputy Commissioner for Elementary, Secondary and Continuing Education. Staff of this bureau cooperate with staffs of the bureaus of regional and specialist library services in the library development program. The pilot projects involving school libraries are the responsibility of a Department implementation team headed by the Assistant Commissioner for Libraries, assisted by the chiefs of the Bureau of School Libraries and the Bureau of Regional Library Services.

The Executive Branch of government includes the Governor and State departments and agencies. The Governor, through the Division of the Budget, pre-

pares the State budget and submits it to the Legislature each January. General oversight of State funds is the responsibility of the Department of Audit and Control, headed by the State Comptroller, an elected official.

The Judicial Branch includes all State courts. The courts may decide legal questions relating to libraries and may decide appeals (under specific circumstances) from decisions of the Commissioner of Education.

Libraries, Library Systems and Networks

Some 7,700 libraries serve the people of New York State. Many of these libraries are linked with others in resource sharing systems and networks. These libraries have book collections of some 158 million volumes. Brief summary data on the several types of libraries is shown in the following table.

Public Libraries. The people of New York State are served by 724 chartered public libraries and over 350 branch libraries. Of these, 717 are members of the 22 public library systems. Some 64 percent of the libraries in the State are small, serving fewer than 7,500 population. Only 120 of the libraries (and almost half of these are located on Long Island) serve a population of 25,000 or more. The three public libraries in New York City, (the Brooklyn, New York and Queens Borough Public Libraries) serve more than 45 percent of the population of the State. In 1980 the total public library operating expenditure in New York State was $242 million. The main financial support for public libraries in New York State (an average of 67 percent) comes from local funds ($163 million in 1980). The average per capita expenditure for public library service (including that for public library systems) in 1980 was $13.17.

The Regents of The University of the State of New York charter (i.e., incorporate) the public libraries. A

SUMMARY OF LIBRARY STATISTICS -- 1980

	Number	Total Volumes	Professional Staff	Support Staff	Total Operating Expenditures	Expenditures: Salary	%	Materials	%
Public[a]	724	49,070,548	3,387	6,110	$241,856,555	$155,273,921	64	$35,134,372	15
Academic[b]	266	52,848,529	2,368	3,583	153,289,769	NA	NA	41,222,730	27
School — Public	4,207	40,596,070	3,463	2,014	113,246,850	83,163,051	73	18,377,002	16
Nonpublic	2,148	8,950,680	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,997,376	NA
Institution[d]	151	717,344	93	NA	1,708,897	1,255,274	73	414,545	24
Medical[e]	215	4,080,725	369	498	11,257,476	NA	NA	4,603,686	41
NY State Library[f]	1	1,779,909	107	169	5,108,101[g]	2,729,036	53	1,262,863	25
TOTAL	7,712	158,043,805	9,787	12,374	$526,467,648	$242,421,282	46	$103,012,274	20

[a] *Public and Association Libraries Statistics 1980*
[b] Preliminary data (Fall 1980) supplied by the National Center for Education Statistics, July 1981
[c] SED Information Center on Education, Public Non-public school library statistics, 1979-80, September 8, 1981
[d] *Institutional Libraries Statistics 1979/80*
[e] *A Directory of Medical Libraries in New York State, 1980*
[f] *New York State Library, 1981* and 1980-81 ARL Questionnaire
[g] Does not include Library Development
NA Data not available

New York State Library
September 8, 1981

library serves a village, town, city, county, school district, a combination of these units, or in exceptional cases a special library district established by the Legislature. These libraries are subject to State Education Law and to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. A board of trustees governs each library, with specific powers and responsibilities under Education Law. Each public library board is autonomous. The four major types of public libraries (and the number in the State) are:

Municipal (203). Created by a village, town, city, or county government, 5–11 trustees appointed by local government;

Association (385). Created by a membership association. Contracts with a unit of government or a school district to provide library services, 5–25 trustees elected by the membership of the association;

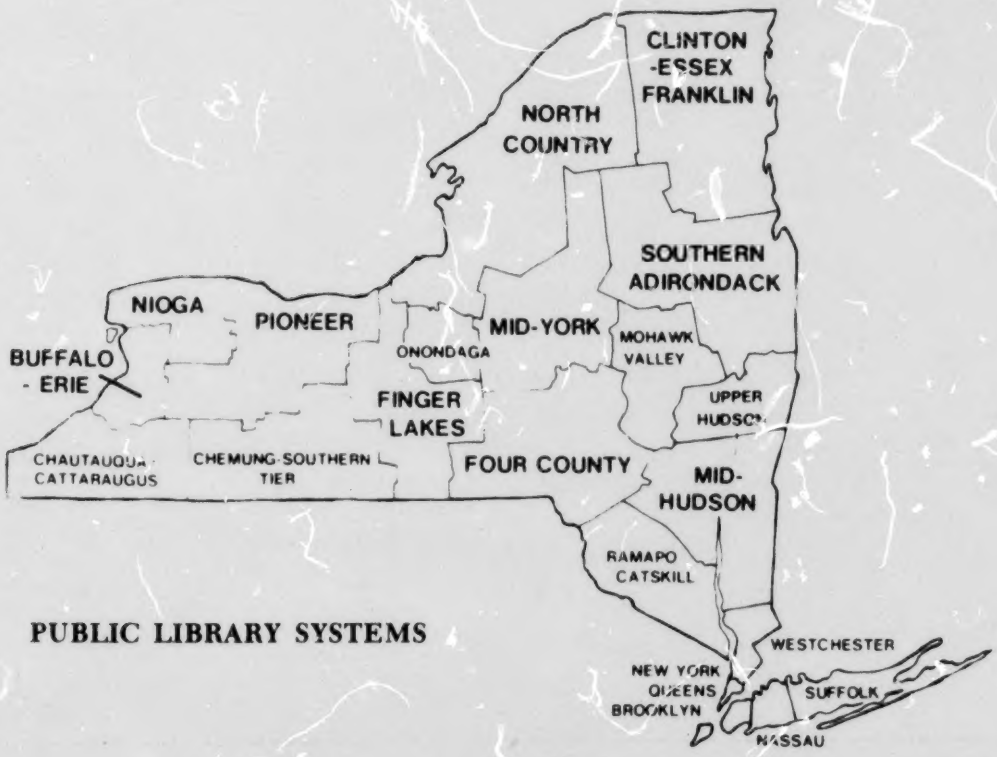
School district (124). Created by vote of the school district electorate or a city board of education, 5–11 trustees elected by the voters of the district or appointed by a city board of education; and

Special district (12). Created by the State Legislature to serve a part of one or more municipalities. Appointment of trustees varies, depending on the legislation which established the districts.

Public Library Systems. The 22 public library systems authorized by Education Law (dating back to 1950) have as members all but seven of the 724 public libraries in the State. The Board of Regents charters the public library systems which operate under plans of service approved by the Commissioner of Education.

Typical functions of a public library system are: coordination of services and functions through cooperation, extension of service to all parts of the area; cooperative development of central library collections; education and inservice training; experimentation and evaluation; resource sharing through union catalog services, loan of film and video materials, interlibrary loan, interface with NYSILL, delivery services and program development.

State support for public library services is made available through the 22 public library systems. In 1981, this support amounted to $36.7 million. Of this sum, $3.9 million was earmarked as Local Sponsor Incentive Aid to be shared with all member libraries and $4.5 million was designated for the central library programs. The remainder was expended by the systems for programs and support services reinforcing local libraries. The statutory formula for state aid to public libraries establishes the amounts which the State Education Department distributes to the systems. The formula includes:



PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS

per capita payments	$10.6 million
reimbursement for library materials expenditures	8.1 million
payments based on square miles served	2.0 million
payments based on number of counties served	1.5 million
central library aid	4.5 million
local sponsor incentive aid	3.9 million
earmarked aid for the Research Libraries, NYPL	5.1 million
earmarked aid for Brooklyn, Buffalo & Erie, Nassau	.4 million
coordinated outreach	.6 million
	$36.7 million

System payments in 1981 ranged from $563,000 to Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System (population 232,622) to $9.2 million to The New York Public Library (population served, 2,949,378). The latter payment includes $5.1 million specifically earmarked for the Research Libraries.

Three types of public library systems are established in New York State. A *consolidated system* is chartered as a single entity under a board of trustees; all libraries are branches of the main library. These include the Brooklyn Public Library, The New York Public Library and the Queens Borough Public Library.

A *federated system* is created by action of the board or boards of supervisors or legislature of the county or counties involved, while the members (legally chartered libraries) retain their own independent boards. Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System, Onondaga County Public Library and Buffalo and Erie County Public Library are federated library systems (Chemung-Southern Tier and the Pioneer Systems are sometimes identified as co-federated library systems).

A *cooperative system* is an association created by agreement of the boards of chartered member libraries which retain their autonomy. Member library boards elect the boards of trustees of cooperative systems.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS PROFILE I: MEMBERSHIP, RESOURCES AND USE, 1980

System	Type	Population 1980 Census	Square Miles	Number of Counties	Number of Members	Total Holdings	Per Capita Holdings	Total Circ.	Per Capita Circ.
Brooklyn Public	C	2,230,936	70	1	1	3,756,319	1.68	6,800,113	3.05
Buffalo and Erie County	F	1,015,472	1,058	1	24	3,859,985	3.80	5,360,049	5.28
Chautauqua-Cattaraugus	Co	232,622	2,399	2	33	1,039,215	4.47	1,727,907	7.43
Chemung-Southern Tier	Co	287,760	3,545	5	35	1,202,971	4.18	1,400,259	4.87
Clinton-Essex-Franklin	F	161,353	4,556	3	28	701,536	4.33	796,979	4.92
Finger Lakes	Co	299,344	2,536	5	29	789,745	2.64	1,404,538	4.69
Four County	Co	368,891	4,073	4	43	1,335,942	3.62	2,187,838	5.93
Mid-Hudson	Co	549,962	2,968	4.8	60	1,223,894	2.23	2,084,377	3.79
Mid-York	Co	385,330	3,319	3	41	1,094,643	2.84	1,641,384	4.26
Mohawk Valley	Co	285,248	1,737	4	13	886,552	3.08	1,463,648	5.08
Nassau	Co	1,321,582	289	1	54	7,141,047	5.40	10,994,717	8.32
New York Public	C				1				
Branch Libraries		2,949,378	122	3		6,177,991	2.09	8,146,082	2.76
Research Libraries		7,071,639[1]	300[1]	5[1]		23,730,743	3.36		
Nioga	Co	325,250	1,429	3	19	1,111,169	3.42	1,552,168	4.77
North Country	Co	341,341	6,317	4	62	1,102,391	3.23	1,576,716	4.62
Onondaga County	F	463,920	794	1	21	1,475,410	3.18	2,202,164	4.75
Pioneer	Co	972,629	3,168	5	60	2,966,318	3.05	7,055,041	7.25
Queens Borough	C	1,891,325	108	1	1	6,464,833	3.42	5,829,145	3.08
Ramapo Catskill	Co	615,080	2,504	3.2	45	1,785,805	2.90	2,933,960	4.77
Southern Adirondack	Co	268,442	4,276	4	28	780,767	2.91	1,230,837	4.59
Suffolk Cooperative	Co	1,284,231	929	1	52	4,922,980	3.83	8,911,484	6.94
Upper Hudson	Co	437,875	1,191	2	25	1,229,094	2.81	1,907,153	4.36
Westchester	Co	866,599	443	1	38	4,278,735	4.94	5,912,959	6.82
TOTAL		17,558,072	47,831	62	713	79,058,085	4.50	83,119,518	4.73

[1] not included in totals

C—Consolidated; F—Federated; Co—Cooperative

Source: *Public and Association Libraries Statistics, 1980*

New York State Library
April, 1982

PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS PROFILE II: FINANCIAL SUPPORT, 1980

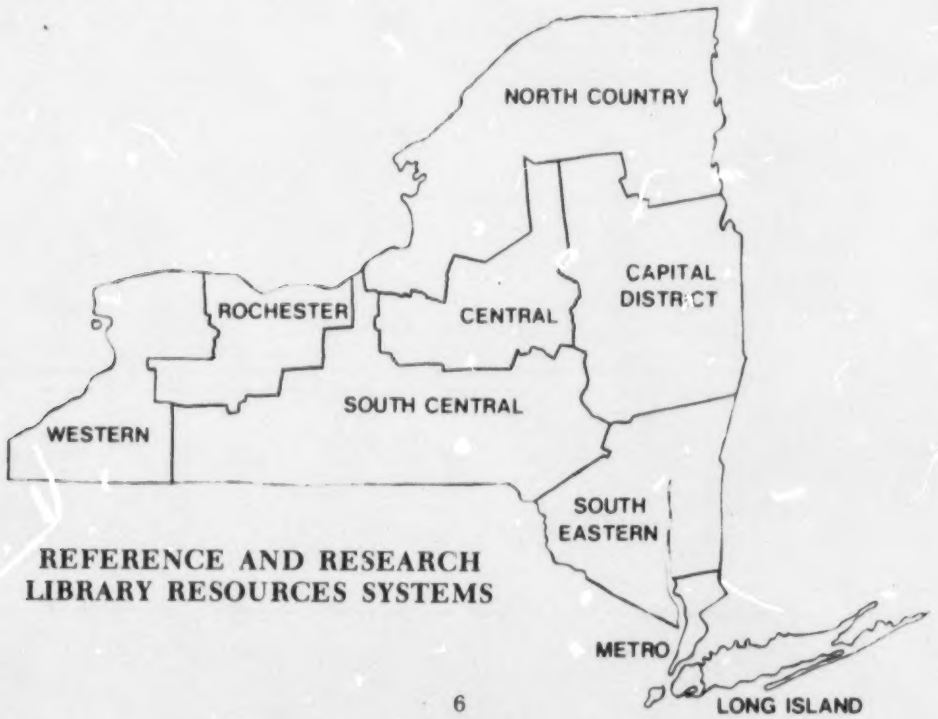
System	Total Support	Per Capita Support	Total Expenditures	Per Capita Expenditures	State Aid	Per Capita State Aid
Brooklyn Public	$20,816,606	$ 9.33	$ 20,477,466	$ 9.18	$ 3,399,000	$ 1.52
Buffalo and Erie County	12,202,356	12.02	14,833,948	14.61	1,549,462	1.53
Chautauqua-Cattaraugus	2,410,788	10.36	2,302,937	9.90	515,202	2.21
Chemung-Southern Tier	2,848,135	9.90	2,756,834	9.58	707,756	2.46
Clinton-Essex-Franklin	1,424,653	8.80	1,299,254	8.03	521,767	3.22
Finger Lakes	2,285,310	7.63	2,203,295	7.36	649,575	2.17
Four County	3,531,409	9.57	3,314,490	8.99	781,420	2.13
Mid-Hudson	6,249,128	11.36	6,063,206	11.02	927,920	1.69
Mid-York	2,538,649	6.59	2,366,691	6.14	745,811	1.94
Mohawk Valley	3,911,239	10.10	2,938,040	10.19	611,907	2.12
Nassau	32,210,202	24.37	33,840,430	25.61	1,999,150	1.51
New York Public						
Branch Libraries	30,317,760	10.28	29,352,144	9.95	4,874,599	1.65
Research Libraries	25,421,222	3.59	24,996,876	3.53	4,493,136	1.57
Nioga	3,293,452	10.13	3,222,787	9.91	616,907	1.90
North Country	2,660,578	7.79	2,642,758	7.74	906,522	2.66
Onondaga County	5,144,749	11.09	4,854,296	10.46	704,118	1.51
Pioneer	10,739,777	11.04	10,710,987	11.01	1,761,464	1.81
Queens Borough	21,679,451	11.46	20,161,577	10.66	2,712,082	1.43
Ramapo Catskill	7,861,969	12.78	7,049,563	11.46	897,244	1.46
Southern Adirondack	1,793,832	6.68	1,711,243	6.37	608,927	2.27
Suffolk Cooperative	22,500,171	17.52	22,202,630	17.29	1,579,996	1.23
Upper Hudson	4,730,673	10.80	4,419,907	10.09	833,968	1.90
Westchester	17,810,619	20.55	17,536,093	20.24	1,297,775	1.50
TOTAL	$243,352,728	$13.86	$241,256,855	$13.74	$33,695,708	$1.92

Source: *Public and Association Libraries Statistics, 1980*

New York State Library
April 1982

The parent governmental units of consolidated and federated library systems appoint their boards. Each library system has a legally designated central library or co-central libraries from which member libraries receive system-wide reference and interloan services. There are 14 cooperative systems: Chautauqua-Cattaraugus; Finger Lakes; Four County; Mid-Hudson; Mid-York; Mohawk Valley; Nassau; Nioga; North Country; Onondaga County; Ramapo Catskill; Southern Adirondack; Suffolk Cooperative; Upper Hudson and Westchester.

Reference and Research Library Resources Systems. Reference and Research Library Resources Systems are regional associations of libraries in publicly



REFERENCE AND RESEARCH LIBRARY RESOURCES SYSTEMS

and privately supported colleges and universities, special libraries (both in corporate and not-for-profit organizations), and public library systems. The Board of Regents charters the systems, which operate under plans of service approved by the Commissioner of Education. Boundaries of the systems match those of public library systems. In 1981 State support for these systems was $1.3 million ($145,650 for each system).

A basic goal of these systems is the sharing of resources to meet the reference and information needs of the library user, students and faculty of institutions of higher education, the professions, and others. Among the services the reference and research systems offer are: interlibrary loan; staff education and in-service training; delivery services; improved communication among libraries; production of union lists and bibliographic control programs; microfilming and preservation programs; cooperative use of computer-based systems; reciprocal access; and interface with the New York State Interlibrary Loan system (NYSILL). These systems also coordinate and administer State aid programs such as the Coordinated Collection Development program, established by Chapter 718 of the *Laws of 1981* which provides grants to public or nonprofit independent colleges or universities located in New York State that agree to share resources through the reference and research library resources systems.

Nine systems cover the entire State. Their members include all 22 public library systems and about 500 other libraries, including academic and research libraries, special libraries, and hospital and other health agency libraries. Regulations of the Commissioner of Education establish standards of membership. The systems are governed by boards of trustees elected by the membership. These boards include representatives of member libraries, public library systems, and some lay persons from the research community served by the system.

Regional Networks for Intersystem Cooperation. Chapter 787 of the *Laws of 1978* broke new ground in library cooperation by authorizing for the first time the development of school library systems and regional networks to align these new systems with the public library systems and the reference and research library resources systems. The law authorized two pilot regional networks for intersystem cooperation, each to include public library systems, reference and research library resources systems, and one or more pilot school library systems. The purpose of these regional library networks is to enable the several types of library systems and their member libraries (college and university, public, school and special) to join together for resource sharing and delivery of services, assuring all people access to improved library and information services. The two regional networks for intersystem cooperation are INTERSHARE (serving the Metropolitan New York City area, including Westchester County) and RARE (serving Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Wayne and Wyoming counties). As one result of these networks, union catalogs and lists have grown markedly, interlibrary loan activity has increased sharply, and delivery systems have improved because of the cooperative activities of these two networks.

School Libraries and Media Centers. New York State has an estimated 4,000 school library media centers within the 4,143 school buildings operated by 730 local Boards of Education. While Commissioner's Regulations require libraries in all schools, librarians are required only in secondary schools. Approximately 3,400 school librarians staff the libraries in public schools.

Some 3 million children attend public schools and some .6 million attend nonpublic schools. Approximately 41 percent of the students are in the five

PROFILE OF SYSTEMS AND LIBRARIES BY REGIONS

Region	Public Library Systems	Public Library System Members	Regional Academic Library Membership	Regional Special and Institution Library Membership	Pilot School Library Systems	Potential School Library Systems	1980 Population	Land Area (Square Miles)
Capital District	3	66	19	25	1	4	994,565	7,204
Central New York	2	62	14	24	1	5	849,250	4,113
Long Island	2	107	23	56	—	4	2,605,813	1,218
Metropolitan	4	41	65	38	3	4	7,938,238	742
North Country	2	90	12	18	1	5	503,196	10,873
Rochester	1	60	13	43	4	5	972,629	3,168
South Central	3	108	19	23	2	9	955,995	10,176
Southeastern	2	107	19	43	—	6	1,165,042	5,474
Western New York	3	76	18	62	—	7	1,573,344	4,901

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largest cities (New York City, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers). Most school districts are relatively small. Only 101 serve 5,000 or more students and 115 serve fewer than 500.

The need for new, often expensive, materials to support curriculum and the need to draw from a growing number of information sources now make it impossible for a school library to stand alone. School administrators, teachers, and librarians recognize the need to offer the elementary or secondary school student and teacher more than the resources of one school library and media center. School libraries in New York are developing systems that will make it possible for them to participate effectively in broader-scale resource sharing involving all types of libraries.

In 1978, the State Legislature authorized the creation of pilot school library systems to test methods for resource sharing. The pilots, based upon the State's 44 Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) and the large city school districts, are located in Rochester, Syracuse, Yonkers, New York City, and in 8 BOCES regions. Nonpublic school libraries are eligible to participate in the systems. Because the awarding of grants for these pilot projects was a competitive process, all regions began planning for school library systems and regional networks for intersystem cooperation. Even without pilot project grants, most unsuccessful applicants have continued cooperative planning and resource sharing efforts.

During their 30 months of operation the school library systems have demonstrated, as public libraries had earlier, the effectiveness of the systems concept. Since 1979, the school library systems have shared more than 37,000 books and other materials through interlibrary loan; developed and tested such new services as a telephone "Homework Hotline" and "Library-on-Call"; contributed some 369,000 entries to monographic union catalogs and 6,000 titles to union lists of periodicals; and provided 247,000 students and their teachers in 356 schools with a wider range of materials than any one school can provide.

Twenty-three boards of cooperative educational services and one city school district are starting union lists of library holdings as part of the 1982 school library system "shoestring" grant program established under Chapter 718 of the *Laws of 1981*. These union lists will locate books, periodicals, and audiovisual materials which will enable participating school libraries to share their resources more easily. These grants and the resulting union lists are another practical step forward in school library system development, building on 12 school library systems and on 2 inter-system pilot projects authorized under 1978 legislation.

Institution Libraries. An estimated 101,000 persons are confined in more than 160 public institutions administered by various State Agencies, New York City, and the counties. The administrators of these institutions and the departments of which they are a part determine what library services these institutions provide. There are 93 libraries in State-operated correctional, youth, mental health, mental retardation and health facilities.

Since 1974, there have been modest annual appropriations for extension of public library system services to local correctional institutions. In 1981 these were increased from $49,000 in 1980–81, to $89,250 in 1981–82, and $100,000 for 1982–83. Chapter 718 of the *Laws of 1981* provided outreach funds to each library system to expand services to the blind, physically handicapped, aged and institutionalized. Residents of correctional facilities, hospitals, youth facilities, nursing homes, developmental centers, psychiatric centers and extended care centers are among the people benefitting from this new legislation.

College and University Libraries. The library resources of colleges and universities are an important part of the State's total library resources. New York State has more institutions of higher education than any other state except California and has the second largest student enrollment. Sixty-nine percent of high school graduates continue their education. In 1981 there were 243 degree granting institutions of higher education in the State, of which 83 were public, 134 independent, and 26 proprietary. Some 990,000 persons are enrolled in these institutions on a full-time or part-time basis. Of the total student body, 56 percent attend public institutions, and 44 percent attend independent and proprietary institutions. When divided according to graduate and undergraduate enrollments, 30 percent of the graduate students and 61 percent of the undergraduate group attend public institutions.

Academic library holdings total more than 52 million volumes. Of these, some 69 percent are held by institutions in the independent sector, and 31 percent are held by public institutions. Eight university libraries in New York State (Columbia, Cornell, New York University, Rochester, Syracuse, SUNY Albany, SUNY Buffalo, and SUNY Stony Brook) meet the high standards of the Association of Research Libraries (The New York Public Library and the New York State Library are also ARL members).

The State University of New York (SUNY) is one of the two major public higher education systems in the State. Founded in 1948, the SUNY system consists of 4 university centers, 2 health sciences centers, 13 colleges of arts and sciences, 4 specialized colleges, 5 statutory colleges administered in cooperation with Cornell University and Alfred University, 6 agricultural and technical colleges, and 30 locally sponsored community colleges. In fall 1981, over 380,000 students were enrolled in SUNY.

The State University is governed by a Board of

Trustees (appointed by the Governor) which determines the policies to be followed by the 34 State supported campuses. The community colleges are governed by local boards of trustees. A central administrative unit provides coordinated direction of services to all units of the University. This includes an office for the coordination of SUNY library services.

SUNY library holdings include some 12 million volumes.

The City University of New York (CUNY) dates from 1847, when the people of New York City established by referendum the Free Academy. The seven municipal colleges became The City University of New York in 1961. The CUNY system (18 units located throughout the five boroughs of metropolitan New York) consists of 10 four-year colleges, seven two-year colleges, and a graduate school and university center. In fall 1981 CUNY enrollment totalled some 176,000 students.

The City University's governing body is a Board of Trustees. Ten members are appointed by the Governor, and five by the Mayor of the City of New York, all with the advice and consent of the Senate.

CUNY library holdings include some 4 million volumes.

The 134 private or independent colleges and universities of New York are independent educational institutions, each with a charter from the Board of Regents or the Legislature and each with its own Board of Trustees. They include 11 universities, 55 colleges, 8 engineering and technical schools, 19 health science centers and specialized colleges, 23 two year colleges and 18 seminaries. The fall 1981 enrollment for the independent colleges and universities was 411,821.

There are, in addition, 26 proprietary colleges (proprietary colleges are private profit-making institutions which provide training in specific skills) such as the Utica School of Commerce and the Jamestown Business College. All but one is a two-year school. Some 25,000 students were enrolled in these schools in fall 1981.

Library holdings of independent colleges and universities include 36 million volumes and holdings of the proprietary schools include some 73,000 volumes.

The Regents 1980 *Statewide Plan for the Development of Postsecondary Education* sets objectives for achievement by 1990. It plans for the development of human resources, the strengthening of New York's economy and the effective use of the State's resources including library resources. The objectives specifically address library collection development, increased bibliographic access to library resources, provision of library user instruction, computer literacy and expanded regional interlibrary loan.

State Appropriations for Higher Education, FY 1981-82

	(in millions)
SUNY	$951.5
CUNY	341.0
Community Colleges	205.3
Bundy Aid	93.3
Medical/Dental Capitation	14.2
College Work-Study Reimbursement	2.6
Programs for the Disadvantaged	45.1
Student Aid	298.6
Other	24.1
Total	$1,975.7

New York State Interlibrary Loan. The New York State Interlibrary Loan (NYSILL) program, established in 1967, is a statewide library and information network that assures access to research libraries. Library users may gain access to NYSILL through any local library which will forward requests through a library system. The New York State Library serves as a central resource and referral center for the NYSILL network. The 12 contracting libraries to which it refers unfilled requests are:

American Museum of Natural History
Brooklyn Public Library
Buffalo and Erie County Public Library
Columbia University
Cornell University
Engineering Societies Library
Monroe County Library System
New York Academy of Medicine
The New York Public Library
New York University
Teachers College
Union Theological Seminary

A NYSILL User Advisory Group was appointed in July 1981 to ensure that interlibrary loan user comments and suggestions are received by the New York State Library on the effectiveness of NYSILL service. The Advisory Group makes suggestions for improvements from the user's perspective.

OCLC/SUNY. OCLC (Online Computer Library Center), is a computer system serving libraries from its headquarters in Dublin, Ohio. This shared bibliographic system offers a variety of library information services and serves 2,500 libraries in 50 states, Canada, Mexico and Great Britain. Some 209 of the libraries are in New York State. OCLC, Inc. began in 1969 as a not-for-profit educational consortium with the objectives of holding down library cost and increasing the availability of resources. Academic libraries, public library systems, school libraries, and

State agency libraries are among OCLC participants. OCLC services are generally made available through regional networks. In New York State, the State University of New York contracts with OCLC on behalf of all types of libraries and the Director of Library Services of the SUNY Central Administration provides training and related network services. The system is self-supporting through fees charged the member libraries. The SUNY/OCLC network director is advised by a 10-member State University of New York Network Advisory Committee (SONAC).

Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN). Five libraries in New York, including four of the largest research libraries, now participate in the Research Libraries Information Network. RLIN members are Columbia University, Cornell University, New York Public Library, New York University, and SUNY Binghamton. Their combined holdings are in excess of 42 million volumes.

Federal Depository Libraries. The variety and scope of government documents of all jurisdicitions offer libraries a rich source of acquisitions to meet the entire range of community needs. Improved awareness of and access to these publications has a high priority in the State Library (a Regional Depository for Federal publications) and the 90 selective depositories within New York State are developing a coordinated State Plan for Federal Depository library service. Elements of the plan are collection and staff development, regional cooperative acquisitions and retention, improved communications and bibliographic awareness among depositories, strengthened on-site and interlibrary loan services, and greater emphasis on publicizing the availability of federal information.

Health Information Library Services. The federally funded Regional Medical Library (RML) network, operating under a contract between the New York Academy of Medicine and the National Library of Medicine, provides access to specialized health information resources in New York and New Jersey (RML Region II). In New York State, nine libraries serve as subcontractors: Albany Medical College Library, American Journal of Nursing Company, the Medical Library Center of New York, Medical Research Library of Brooklyn, State University at Buffalo Health Sciences Library, State University at Stony Brook Health Sciences Library, State University Upstate Medical Center Library, University of Rochester School of Medicine Library, and Westchester Medical Center Library. During 1980/81 these libraries received 130,560 interlibary loan requests for health information materials. Of these requests, 94,384 were filled and 25,251 were referred to other libraries. Because the New York Academy of Medicine also serves as a resource library in the NYSILL network, NYSILL requests not filled by the Academy may be switched to the RML; RML libraries may access NYSILL directly.

Under Chapter 718 of the *Laws of 1981* the New York State Library entered into a contract with the New York Academy of Medicine to purchase Library Service Coupons for use by the Reference and Research Library Resources Systems. These coupons are used to obtain interlibrary loan services from subcontracting libraries in the RML program. Coupons are allocated by the State Library among the reference and research library systems in proportion to the prior interlibrary loan use in each region and according to an approved distribution plan developed by each system.

The purpose of this program is to improve access to health information in New York State, make the resources of the RML network directly accessible by libraries in the reference and research library regions, encourage the full use of local and regional health information resources before accessing other resources in the RML and NYSILL networks, and facilitate referrals to the most appropriate locations in both networks.

The *Laws of 1981* also provided for the establishment of two pilot projects for medical information services in public library systems to improve consumer health information services in the system's service area. Pilot projects are located in the Nioga Library System and the Onondaga County Public Library.

In addition, each reference and research library resources system is developing a program to provide services to rural hospital libraries enabling these libraries to meet standards established by the Regents, and to participate in resource sharing networks.

Constraints That Reduce the Services of Libraries

Financial. The great volume and variety of New York State's library resources should not disguise the serious financial problems of libraries. The New York City metropolitan area contains one of the four largest concentrations of library resources in the world; yet some branches of the Brooklyn, New York, and Queens Borough public libraries have only enough funds to offer service 20 hours a week. Constraints in New York City's school and college budgets have resulted in erosion of library support. Upstate New York also has impressive library collections and services, but many schools and communities are unable to provide materials to meet all the needs of their users.

To ensure adequate access to information resources and services for all residents of New York State, libraries and library systems require additional State, local, and Federal support. Although libraries have traditionally offered their services at no charge to users, the cost of providing such new services as computer data base searches, is causing a reevaluation of this policy. Static budgets are forcing libraries to spend less on materials as rising costs in other areas absorb larger percentages of their budgets. Today it is not uncommon for a public library to spend more for fuel than for library materials.

In 1980, the total public library expenditure from all sources was $242 million, making the average public library expenditure per capita, exclusive of capital expenditures, $13.17. Per capita support at the local level ranges from 21¢ in Jordanville (Herkimer County) to $123 in the small community of Fishers Island (Suffolk County).

Funding for the Federal Library Services and Construction Act is low in relation to need, and is inadequate to meet the goals stated in the statute.

Legal. The Federal Library Services and Construction Act and its Federal regulations establish requirements, limit the use of funds to specific purposes, and set general boundaries of use. New York State's Education Law and other State laws also establish the boundaries within which libraries and systems must operate, the standards and requirements they must meet, and their legal structure.

Political. At all levels of government, priorities, pressures, agreements, compromises, and other realities of the American political system affect libraries in their funding, development, functions and areas of service.

Resources. Libraries are confronted by a greatly increased volume of published materials, an expanding variety of forms of media, staggering inflation in the cost of published materials, and rapid (and expensive) advances in computer technology, automation and telecommunications which are transforming the handling and transfer of information. Library staff shortages severely limit library services at all levels. These shortages result from financial constraints and the frequent inability to find qualified personnel for some specialized positions because of competition between private industry and the public sector.

A large number of libraries lack adequate physical facilities. To make libraries accessible to handicapped persons as required by State and Federal law will require remodeling, rehabilitation, and the modification of many buildings. Many libraries are planning new construction or remodeling, but most lack the funds to build or to make the required modifications. Most of the facilities for institution libraries need improvement.

Goals

Regents policy on libraries affirms that every resident of New York State should enjoy timely and free access, through local libraries working within library systems, to a full range of informational resources and services, provided without restriction of censorship or violation of privacy.

"Free access" means access without regard to the age, sex, cultural or ethnic background, or other personal characteristics of the user. It means, as well, accommodating disabled persons and others through outreach programs and adaptation of services. In publicly financed and publicly operated libraries, access to informational resources should be provided free of cost to the user, except for modest and equitable fees charged for special service alternatives.

To provide access and increased services and to meet the informational, cultural, and recreational needs of all the people of the State, a comprehensive program involving all types of libraries is required. Different types of libraries have evolved to meet the variety of needs of the State's men, women, and children. These include public, school, academic (community college, college, and university), special (business, government, and organization) and institution libraries. Through systems and networks these diverse resources become accessible to the greatest number of people. The sharing of resources by all libraries (public, academic, school, special, and institution) within the State through local, regional, and State partnerships is encouraged through regional and state level system development. Because no single library or region contains everything that a library user might require, the State created and is continuing to develop the New York State Interlibrary Loan Network. Through this network public, academic, medical, institution and business libraries, irrespective of size or location, have access to all library resources in the State.

Extending these two basic State goals are those more specific purposes stated in the Federal Library Services and Construction Act (as amended by Public Laws 91-600, 93-380, and 95-123). Those under Title I are: the improvement of public library service and the elimination of inadequacies to those not fully served; improvement of library service in State institutions; expansion and improvement of library programs for the blind and physically handicapped; strengthening of metropolitan public libraries which play essential roles in regional service; and strengthening the State Library and its backstopping, coordinating, development and support services.

The purpose of Title III of the Federal Library Services and Construction Act is to establish and maintain local, regional, State, or interstate cooperative

networks of libraries for the systematic and effective coordination of the resources of school, public, academic, and special libraries and special information centers.

Library planners have developed objectives for these goals. Implicit in the goals are two principles: that the people of New York State may use more than one type of library, and that all libraries are interdependent. Nine objectives are stated and described in part five of this document. They are:

Local Service
Library Systems
Service for Blind and Physically Disabled Persons
Service for Adult Learners
Service for Residents of Institutions
Effective Use of Technology
Physical Facilities
School Library Services
State Library Services

Some factors that influence library decision-making and apply to all objectives are: the priorities of the Regents as related to libraries; Federal priorities under the Library Services and Construction Act; library and information needs of users; the status of ongoing programs in their various phases of implementation; and the current economic environment with local, State and Federal fiscal resources and constraints.

Nine Library Program Objectives

New York State has an enormous range of library services, resources and operations. The following are nine broad objectives or programs for assuring all residents of New York State convenient free access to library services. The order in which they appear does not indicate priority.

1. Quality service for all persons in their local communities.

The residents of New York State have a right to receive good library service in their home communities. In seeking information, users may start at a number of different points. The usual point of access for the person not enrolled in a formal course of education is a public library or branch library. Students usually turn first to a school or academic library. Business employees often first seek library service through a corporate library. When each library operated independently, each information seeker had to go from library to library. Today, by channeling materials and information from one library to another, the network can bring the resources of the State to the local community.

Those persons who are educationally or economically disadvantaged or who face cultural, physical, or psychological barriers may need special help in the use of library services. Some 5.6 million persons over the age of 16 lack a high school diploma or the equivalent. The 1980 Census determined that 13.4 percent of the State's population lives below the poverty level. Economically disadvantaged people are both concentrated in urban areas and scattered throughout suburban and rural areas of the State. For many New Yorkers, English is not a first language. In 1980, more than 20 percent of the 9 million residents in the New York City Metropolitan area were foreign born, and some 25 major languages, ranging from Arabic to Yiddish, are spoken by 30 percent of the residents of this same area.

Libraries ought to serve both traditional and new users. Libraries, which have been primarily oriented to English-speaking users, are making efforts to improve library services to persons whose primary language is not English. They also often employ special or outreach techniques for making contact with potential users. The term traditional user has been employed to describe library users in the general population served by a library or library system. Within this population there are people who are considered special clientele (for example, local government officials, operators of small business, or persons fluent in both English and foreign languages) for whom the library may make a special effort.

Library outreach services are programs specifically designed to reach and serve urban and rural persons who may be physically, mentally or educationally disadvantaged, people who are institutionalized in government or nongovernmental facilities; and those people who are isolated by cultural differences and geographical distances. These outreach services generally attempt to restore balance and equity in library service to those people who may have been discriminated against because they belong to such minority groups as Asians, blacks, Hispanics, and native Americans.

To implement this objective the State Library, directly or through library systems, will:

a. Provide to local libraries of all types information on the resources available to their users (current and potential) through library networking;
b. Continue to seek new legislation favorable to library development in the State;
c. Strengthen services to persons with limited English-speaking ability by continuing to identify such users (and potential users) and providing programs and resources, including nonprint materials for their use;
d. Provide materials and services designed to help functionally illiterate persons to use libraries;

e. Provide materials and services to disadvantaged persons;
f. Encourage libraries to seek out and serve minority persons; and
g. increase efforts to reach potential users;

2. Improvement of library systems, their resource libraries, and further development of intersystem cooperation, making it possible for libraries of all types to serve their readers more completely, efficiently, and effectively

More than 30 years of library system development in New York State, starting with public library systems and reference and research library resources systems, and now including pilot programs for school library systems and regional networks for intersystem cooperation, have demonstrated the value of building upon the strength of existing institutions, shared development and use of resources, and imaginative program development.

Since 1979, State funded pilot programs have enabled planners to evaluate realistically what problems must be overcome and what fiscal resources will be needed for the development of school library systems and regional intersystem cooperative networks. The aim of such regional development is to provide needed resources and services, from basic to the most advanced, through the user's home library, whether that home library is a school, public, academic, special, industrial, or research library.

The Commissioner's Committee on Statewide Library Development has recommended that systems of all types review and redefine their missions in terms of emerging user needs and technological development. The Committee also defined the following principles for resource sharing:

- Each library in the State should have access to other collections in the State.
- Interlibrary loan and other types of resource sharing are integral parts of library systems and networks.
- Regional resource sharing provides a sound basis for interlibrary loan activity.
- Clear standards for interlibrary loan network performance are needed.
- Communications technology and computer-based data storage techniques should be used for efficient resource sharing.
- Data base development should be monitored for adherence to technical standards.
- Access to the several national data bases and to the diversity of services they offer are in the interest of New York State.
- A State-supported network should make optimum use of prior public investment in resources and should provide incentives for using nonreimbursed resources and services before turning to reimbursed resources.
- State reimbursement for interlibrary loans is an appropriate mechanism for assuring access to statewide collections.
- Successful resource sharing depends upon the strength of library collections in the participating libraries.

Recommendations based upon these principles include pursuit of interfaces among interlibrary loan networks, redesign of the NYSILL network to accommodate point-to-point access and to distribute loan requests more evenly, and expanded attention to continuing education required to meet the needs of tomorrow's libraries for personnel with the knowledge, competencies, and skills needed to participate in technological development and to provide more responsive library and information services.

The New York State union list of serials is being developed as a coordinated statewide program to build a machine-readable data base based on the CONSER (Conversion of Serials) project. A complete record of the holdings of the newspapers of New York State will be developed cooperatively in a newspaper bibliographic and preservation program. The development of a statewide retrospective data base of monograph holdings will be accelerated.

Public Law 95-123 amended Title I of the Federal Library Services and Construction Act to earmark funds for the strengthening of public libraries which serve major urban resource libraries. These libraries fill an important place in the proper functioning of any major system or network. Public libraries in New York State which qualify for assistance under this program are the Albany Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, The New York Public Library, Queens Borough Public Library, Rochester Public Library, Onondaga County Public Library (Syracuse), and Yonkers Public Library.

To encourage development of an efficient and effective system of libraries in New York, the State Library will:

a. Encourage cooperative programs that enable systems to provide needed resources and services to member libraries;
b. Seek additional State funds for support of library systems and to further strengthen the research collections of the major research libraries participating as resource libraries in the NYSILL program;
c. Conduct a systematic review of public library system plans of service to examine current practices, update when appropriate, and suggest options for the future;
d. Strengthen regional resource sharing through the reference and research library resource systems

and pilot networks and examine appropriate methods of integrating their functions;

e. Cooperate with public library systems, library educators, and other appropriate groups to assess continuing education needs and carry out recommendations of the Statewide Continuing Education Advisory Committee;
f. Strengthen major urban resource libraries as Federal funds become available;
g. Re-examine the NYSILL program, establish links with RLIN and OCLC, and make recommendations for future network development;
h. Test the feasibility of point-to-point interlibrary loan access in two reference and research library systems and test remote use of the State Library's online catalog; and
i. Use the services of the NYSILL User Advisor Group effectively.

3. Improved service to disabled persons.

Physical disabilities affecting vision, hearing, mobility, or perception should not limit the quality of library service available to users. Meeting this objective requires access to informational resources in special formats which provide disabled persons the same wide variety of subjects, points of view and comprehension levels available to other library patrons. Special equipment (record players, cassette players, reading machines, and low vision aids), special materials (braille, recorded disc and tape cassettes) and the adaptation of physical structures make libraries accessible to disabled persons.

The New York Public Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, serving readers in the five boroughs of New York City and Long Island, and the New York State Library for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, serving readers in 55 upstate counties, are the two regional libraries in the state designed to serve disabled users. Public libraries and other local community agencies are important points of contact for this service. They can identify potential users, provide readers advisory services, introduce users to such conventional services as telephone reference and audio collections, and provide intermediary contact between the local user and the regional libraries. They can also sponsor such local or regional programs as radio reading service for blind and visually handicapped persons.

The special information needs of disabled persons need to be better understood and addressed by all types of libraries. Opportunities to learn about these needs must be made available to library staff. Reference collections should include the special resource materials which physically disabled persons and their families require to meet daily living needs. Library systems must make commitments to library users with impaired hearing through outreach programs involving staff trained in nonverbal communication, special materials, and new telephone/teletype written communications systems.

To meet this commitment the State Library will:

a. Encourage use of regional library services to the blind and visually handicapped;
b. Strengthen lines of communications between the regional libraries and other libraries, agencies and patrons;
c. Ensure maximum use of the network of 38 Kurzweil reading machines by assisting libraries in developing programs for their use;
d. Maintain a strong collection of special media materials for the blind and visually handicapped; and
e. Cooperate with agencies which serve hearing impaired persons to provide to library systems information about deafness and its implications, along with resource materials to help meet the library information needs of persons with hearing impairment.

4. Improved service to adult learners and others who use or could use the library as a resource for general, cultural or vocational education.

Each year more adults are involved in independent learning to keep their education from becoming obsolete as fields of knowledge change rapidly and as they see a continuing need to improve and increase their knowledge in relation to their jobs. Development of programs such as the Regents External Degree, Empire State College, and the University Without Walls have made it possible to obtain a college degree largely through independent study without attending formal, on-campus programs; these students are already making added demands on their local public libraries.

Greater numbers of adults are enrolled part-time in continuing education programs at secondary and postsecondary levels, sponsored by local school districts, BOCES, and two or four-year colleges. Whether persons are preparing for High School Equivalency or are enrolled in postsecondary programs, many part-time students find the public library to be an accessible and important resource. Libraries provide programs and resources to persons interested in attaining basic literacy skills, or obtaining career planning and employment opportunity information. These needs are identified and met through Job and Education Information Centers and adult literacy programs.

The 1976 Amendments to the Higher Education Act authorized the Education Information Center Program, and require the states to develop comprehensive plans to provide educational information, guidance, and referral services on the postsecondary level for all individuals. In the development of education and career information and advisory services for adults, New York State gave special attention to the

public library as a delivery system for these services. The public library's neutrality; established identity as a community information center; ability to classify, store and retrieve large quantities of information; accessibility and prolonged hours of service to the general public are complementary to the goals and objectives of the Education Information Center (EIC) Program.

Each of the six EIC sites serves special populations in addition to serving the general public. Among those targeted are the economically disadvantaged, persons whose language is other than English, the rurally isolated, and disabled persons. These sites serve as models useful to other libraries in providing education and career information to adults.

Public libraries have always provided readers advisory services, either formally or informally, but new demands of users are requiring that librarians acquire greater skill and knowledge in assisting the adult learner. To meet these demands the State Library will:

a. Provide technical and consultant services to public libraries, emphasizing staff development and continuing library education directed at improving adult services;
b. Identify and secure additional sources of funding to assist local libraries to improve and increase services to adult learners;
c. Encourage networking between libraries and other cultural and educational institutions and community based organizations; and
d. Strengthen existing EIC pilot programs and assist in evaluation of the program.

5. Development of library service to residents of institutions.

Institutionalized persons need convenient free access to library services to meet their needs for information, education and recreation. Most institution libraries are inadequate to help residents adjust successfully to self and society. Institution residents in many cases have no direct access to libraries serving the general public. Institution residents also have special needs and interests and require specialized library materials and services, including materials in Spanish and other languages and in nonprint formats. Institution libraries need strong backup support from public library systems and member libraries, and they need the capability to tie into NYSILL and other networks.

Special State appropriations for institution library service have been used to assist public libraries in providing additional service to residents of local institutions, including "books-by-mail" programs and interlibrary loan. In addition, limited projects have been developed under LSCA Title I.

An effective program for institution library service will require adequate support from the agencies which administer the institutions, staffing at the institution level, and full participation by institution libraries in the mainstream of library networking.

The State Library will:

a. Provide staff assistance and consultant service for the planning and development of institution library programs; and
b. Provide information on effective institution library services and disseminate information through conferences and workshops.

6. Effective use of technology to improve services and efficiency.

Rapid technological change has affected and will continue to affect all aspects of library service and library systems. Libraries are changing as they add materials in new formats (microforms, videotapes and video discs, and computer programs for self-instruction) to their collections. Library staffs are being reshaped and new personnel needs are being created as machines perform more clerical and professional tasks. Today's communications technology and computer-based storage and retrieval techniques make possible more rapid and efficient resource sharing. They also create the possibility of increased competition from private providers of electronic information services.

Basic to the application of technology to library operations is the conversion of library catalogs to machine readable format. Once library catalogs have been converted, automated acquisitions, accounting and circulation sub-systems may be added to create an integrated system for collection management. Such a system may be shared by many libraries in a region. For resource sharing purposes regional systems should be linked to create a statewide network with linkage to national networks like RLIN and OCLC.

As the initial move in building such a computer-based statewide network, Federal grant funds are being used for retrospective conversion of monographic catalogs and union lists of serials, for further development of a prototype regional system, and for network coordination. Standards have been established for these projects and will be amplified as construction of the network progresses.

The libraries of New York State must work together, with the leadership and guidance of the State Library, to achieve the greatest economies and benefits from the use of technology. Cooperation is needed to help libraries make cost-effective choices from the great variety of new equipment, materials, and systems now available; to ensure access for all library users to new instructional media and online reference tools; and to make certain that compatible systems for resource sharing are developed.

A plan has been developed to establish direction for future statewide technological development and to assure efficient use of limited resources. To accomplish this, the State Library will:

a. Develop a statewide bibliographic data base which will include both monographs and serials, and which will build on existing machine-readable data;
b. Provide libraries of all types, sizes, and location access to all parts of the data base, wherever stored;
c. Develop links to all national networks serving libraries in New York State with the objective of sharing responsibility for data storage and access;
d. Seek legislation and funds for a research and engineering study to plan and design the technological component of a coordinated resource-sharing and document-delivery system; and
e. Seek legislation and funds to set standards and guidelines for and ensure the compatibility of publicly funded automated systems.

7. Construction and renovation of library facilities to improve service in systems and member public libraries and to provide access for the physically handicapped.

Many library buildings are too small or are outdated. Changes in service programs and information technology are creating demands that existing library buildings lacking space, flexibility, adequate electrical wiring, and climate control cannot meet. Library buildings generally need modification to make them energy efficient. In addition, it is essential that architectural barriers in libraries be removed so that facilities are fully accessible to persons with physical handicaps.

It has been estimated that it would cost a minimum of $94 million to provide adequate physical facilities for the libraries of the State. Two types of funding are needed: grants for planning and funding to provide incentive and equalization support to local libraries. State-level and system planning in relation to physical facilities is needed to gain maximum value for construction expenditures and avoid possible overbuilding. Both State and Federal funds will be required to narrow the gap between need and present inadequate facilities.

To overcome the problem of inadequate facilities the State Library will:

a. Seek State aid legislation for library construction, renovation and/or rehabilitation of public library buildings;
b. Use Federal LSCA Title II and other funds as available to subsidize library construction and renovation; and
c. Conduct an annual construction needs assessment within the State.

8. Improved school library media service to students and teachers.

School libraries are an integral part of the school program and as such they support the educational and instructional program of the elementary and secondary schools, providing students with the skills and attitudes needed to become lifelong users of libraries. Children who are denied the opportunity to read widely in areas of interest to them and at a comfortable level of difficulty will not be motivated to improve their reading, visual, and analytical skills. Neither will they be able to benefit from the extensive resources of libraries as adults if they have not learned the necessary techniques of research and inquiry. The goal of life-long learning and the success of adult independent learners depends heavily on the quality of library experiences in the formative years.

State funds have been provided to support pilot projects establishing, for the first time, school library systems to strengthen individual school library programs and to interact with the established public library systems and the reference and research library resources systems. "Shoestring grants" were established in 1981 to enable potential school library systems to take practical steps toward resource sharing.

The continued development and improvement of school library services requires increased Federal, State, and local support for the employment of certified school library media specialists to serve students, teachers and administrators in all schools, the acquisition of school library media resources, and the expansion of school library systems.

To improve school library media service the State Library will:

a. Foster cooperation between school and public libraries by encouraging school library involvement in pilot project programs;
b. Seek legislation and funds for conversion of school library system pilots to continuing systems and develop additional pilot systems in other areas;
c. Strengthen liaison between the Bureau of School Libraries and Library Development; and
d. Sponsor school/public library conferences to disseminate information on topics of current interest to library personnel.

9. Strengthening of the resources and services of the State Library to assure (a) the highest quality reference and research library service to the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of State government; (b) efficient and effective interlibrary loan, networking, support and specialized library services to libraries and clienteles; and (c) planning, coordination, leadership and State financial participation in the provision of library service to all the people of New York State.

Effective access by all State residents to information resources requires coordinated planning, the full use of sophisticated technology, an administrative center for statewide information and interloan network, and

strong collections of informational materials. Each level of library service responsibilities must be identified and the State Library should assist in this process. The relationship of individual libraries to regional networks and the role of regional networks in statewide resource sharing requires definition and coordination at the State level.

Development and improvement of library services statewide requires consultant, specialist, and administrative staff in the Library Development Bureaus and the Administration Unit for work with libraries, systems, networks, government agencies, professional organizations, and users. The State Library agency must strengthen its capacity in the collection and analysis of statistics for measurement and evaluation, develop appropriate continuing education programs, and develop effective communication with all types of libraries and organizations concerned with library, information, cultural, and educational services.

For the Library, priority is given to those programs and services which it can uniquely provide as the research library for the government and the people of the State, as a statewide resource and administrative center for the interloan network and as a regional resource for the blind and visually handicapped.

For the Library Development Bureaus, priority is placed upon the provision of staff with special skills capable of providing services usually not found at, or appropriate to, local or regional levels of service. Library Development staff provide leadership and support in areas such as organization, management, planning, evaluation, continuing education, and service to special clienteles.

To implement this program, the State Library will:

a. Use the 4.5 million item State Library collection as a central resource in the statewide network;
b. Maintain collection and staff strengths at the Library which will insure timely and effective response to interlibrary loan requests;
c. Use new techniques to improve network performance and provide access to information resources (such as computerized data bases) which are too costly or too new to be available as local resources in all areas;
d. Maintain a strong collection of special media materials for the blind and visually handicapped;
e. Support statewide public information programs designed to increase awareness of library services;
f. Seek State funds for services heavily dependent upon LSCA funds;
g. Provide consultant service and staff assistance for planning and development of library programs within the State;
h. Emphasize the review of plans of service and budgets as a means of exercising more current and systematic planning and evaluation; and
i. Promote intra-agency and interagency cooperation and coordination in the planning and delivery of library services.

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SUMMARY OF LIBRARY STATISTICS — 1981

	Number	Total Volumes	Professional Staff	Support Staff	Total Operating Expenditures	Expenditures Salary	%	Materials	%
Public[a]	725	50,162,003	3,440	6,240	$262,412,465	$168,601,358	64	$37,824,777	14
Academic[b]	266	54,169,827	2,403	3,709	165,407,739	NA	NA	45,963,455	28
School[c] — Public	4,529	41,308,470	3,363	1,811	118,227,395	86,942,901	74	18,793,328	16
Nonpublic	NA	9,679,457	1,301	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Institution[d]	163	812,104	NA	NA	2,692,441	1,748,624	65	735,613	27
Medical[e]	232	NA	352	458	21,602,473	NA	NA	6,466,675	30
NY State Library[f]	1	1,831,473	104	153	5,936,185	3,330,655	56	1,396,000	24
TOTAL	5,916	157,963,334	10,963	12,371	$576,278,698	$260,623,538	45	$111,179,848	19

[a] *Public and Association Libraries Statistics 1981; Pre-publication data*
[b] Selected statistics on Postsecondary Libraries in New York State, 1981–1982; JUly 1982
[c] SED Information Center on Education, Public/Non-public school library statistics, 1980–81.
[d] *Institution Libraries Statistics 1980/81*
[e] *A Directory of Medical Libraries in New York State, 1982; Pre-publication data*
[f] *New York State Library, 1982* and 1980–81 ARL Questionnaire; Pre-publication data
NA Data not available

New York State Library
August 1982

The activity which is the subject of this publication is supported in part by Federal Library Services and Construction Act grant funds administered by the New York State Education Department.

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